

Hafa Adai!

Free webinar on how to apply for SBA's Restaurant Revitalization Fund. **PAGE 2**
Woman charged with child neglect is released. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY APRIL 22, 2021

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Tears of relief and sadness

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Brooks Rauschenberger woke up yesterday and cried both in relief and sadness upon learning that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin had been found guilty in the death of George Floyd.

Rauschenberger, who started a one-person "Black Lives Matter" demonstration on Saipan a few weeks after Floyd's death in May last year that inspired many in the community to join in and eventually start their own peaceful BLM protests, said that true justice would have been Floyd alive and at home with

See TEARS on Page 4

Jury's swift verdict for Chauvin in Floyd death: Guilty

By AMY FORLITI, STEVE KARNOWSKI and TAMMY WEBBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—After three weeks of testimony, the trial of the former police officer charged with killing George Floyd ended

RELATED NEWS

Joy, but also wariness.

PAGE 12

Through the media covering Chauvin case, a collective pause.

PAGE 15

swiftly: barely more than a day of jury deliberations, then just minutes for the verdicts to be read—guilty, guilty and guilty—and Derek Chauvin was handcuffed and taken away to prison.

Chauvin, 45, could be sent
See JURY on Page 4

Hearing on Article 12 abolition draws opposition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first public hearing on

Senate Legislative 22-01, which Senate President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) introduced to amend Article

12 to remove the restriction on the alienation of land in the Commonwealth, drew many opponents yesterday

to Capital Hill, including the senator's older brother, during a public hearing before

See HEARING on Page 4



Lawyer Frannie Tenorio Demapan, testifying before the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs at the Senate chamber on Tuesday, expressed opposition to Senate Legislative 22-01 that seeks to amend Article 12 to remove the restriction on the alienation of land in the Commonwealth.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Waiting for Treasury guide on ARPA spending plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Like all other states and territories, the CNMI Department of Finance is still waiting for the U.S. Department of the Treasury to put out guidelines on exactly how detailed or how they want the spending plan to be for the estimated \$515 million that's allocated to the CNMI

See WAITING on Page 4



AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 21, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech			
Initiated:	18,374		
Fully Vaccinated:	14,283		
Moderna			
Initiated:	2,815		
Fully Vaccinated:	2,133		
Janssen			
Fully vaccinated:	49		

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,879	18	7,897
Recovered	7,695	5	7,700
Active	43	18	61
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			149,238

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	162	0	162
Traced via Travel Screening	126	0	126
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			35

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The derelict fishing vessel *Lady Carolina* will be removed from the Saipan Lagoon starting May.

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LOCAL

The 4th Annual Saipan Wind Band Festival is happening this Sunday, but with no audience.

PAGE 7



ENVIRONMENT

Today marks the 51st celebration of Earth Day, which is celebrated in over 190 countries.

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Local

Free webinar today on how to apply for SBA's Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The U.S. Small Business Administration in Guam will be having a free webinar today, April 22, on how to apply for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, or RRF, which aims to provide funding to help restaurants and other eligible businesses keep their doors open.

SBA branch manager Ken Lujan will be providing updates today on availing of the RRF. Lujan has also con-

firmed with Saipan Tribune that businesses in the CNMI are eligible for this funding. CNMI restaurants are invited to RSVP to this event to learn more about the program and how to avail of funding. Registration is open to the first 100 registrants.

To register, go to: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-upqTMoHtH-BfvGjUawlYm3augXA_YoI

The American Rescue Plan

Act established the RRF. This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

Currently, SBA is not accepting applications for RRF. However, you can prepare

your application by reviewing the sample application, program guide, and cross-program eligibility chart on SBA COVID-19 relief options. You will be able to apply through SBA-recognized Point of Sale Restaurant Partners or directly via SBA in a forthcoming online application portal. Registration with SAM.gov is not required. DUNS or CAGE identifiers are also not required.

The official application launch date will be announced shortly. Ahead of the application launch and over the next two weeks, the SBA will establish a seven-day pilot period for the RRF application portal and conduct extensive outreach and training on how to apply, application requirements, and where to apply. Participants in this pilot will be randomly selected from existing PPP borrowers

in priority groups for RRF and will not receive funds until the application portal is open to the public.

Following the pilot, the application portal will be opened to the public. For the first 21 days that the program is open, the SBA will prioritize reviewing applications from small businesses owned by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Following the 21-day period, all eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications. (PR)

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Woman charged with child neglect is released

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A mother who was charged with child neglect for allegedly leaving her minor children home alone has made bail and was released to her brothers.

Tiffany Joy Villanueva, 27, was released to her two brothers as third-party custodians after posting a \$500 cash bail.

Villanueva, who is accused of leaving her 2-year-old child and two other minor children at home at 2am to meet with a male friend, requested the court to allow her to post 10% of the initial \$5,000 cash bail and to release her to her two brothers.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted Villanueva's request after her two brothers assured the court that they would call the police if she violates the conditions of her release.

As part of the conditional release, Camacho ordered Villanueva not to have any contact with her children.

According to court documents, Villanueva told police in a freely given statement that she left her apartment with her minor children unattended before 2am to meet with a male friend in Koblerville because she thought she was "going to have fun." Villanueva then waited for the 2am to 4am curfew to end before heading home.

She added that even though there weren't any other adults watching her children when she left, she did not inform her neighbors that she was going to leave her children unattended for some time.

In the early hours of April 7, witnesses reported to police that they heard a baby crying at Sally's Apartment in San Antonio. They said they knocked on the locked door to Villanueva's apartment, but no one answered so they called the police.

At the scene, responding officers gained entry into the apartment through one of the windows. The officers observed that the room was messy with empty bottles, food, and other plates on top of one of the tables as well as unwashed dishes in the kitch-

en sink. They also saw two juveniles sleeping on the bed, including the crying toddler.

The officers, who said they

did not find any adult in the apartment unit, summoned the Division of Youth Services to the scene.

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HEARING

From Page 1

the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs at the Senate chamber.

Former Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman, who was the 39th and last to testify, said he appreciates the fact that the proposed initiative has sparked a conversation about Article 12 but, without sound data to provide an objective discussion, the subject "leaves a bitter taste."

"Therefore I am against the current proposal," said Rabauliman during the public hearing that started at 5am and adjourned at 8:54pm.

Committee chair Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) presided over the hearing. Also present were Sens. Hofschneider, Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), and Karl R. King Nabors (R-Tinian).

In an interview after the hearing, Hofschneider said the hearing is a good platform and process in addressing the legislative initiative, and that he appreciates the people who expressed their concern with the proposed initiative. "That would assist the committee to drive the legislation, whether or not to amend it," he said, adding that he will respect the process.

He said it's the first public hearing on Saipan and that they did a similar hearing on Rota but that the committee might want to do another round on Rota to get satisfactory representation from the people.

Hofschneider said they hope that they can get more hearings or other forms of platforms, but that it's something that the committee will decide.

Hofschneider said he is glad that some of the younger generation have come out and they're actually paying attention.

"So hopefully, through this platform the others that are not coming over will have the opportunity to learn from the issues at hand," he said.

Personally, he said, it's the right time to bring up the issue and allow the people to air their concerns. "It's a very sensitive issue and I know it's bigger than all of us," he said.

He said the initial turnout on Saipan shows a clearer picture of

the issue. "So I encourage everyone to come out, whether or not you oppose it or in support it. Come out at the next public hearing and let your voice be heard," Hofschneider said.

He said as the sponsor of the bill it's his responsibility to be at the hearing to hear the sentiments of the people.

Hofschneider earlier stated that the legislative initiative will allow Northern Marianas descent landowners to fully exercise their real property rights, and to reduce the NMD percentage of ownership interest in an NMD corporation.

He clarified that the initiative applies only to private ownership and that public will not be affected by this proposed legislation.

He said an amendment to Article 12 does not take away landownership rights or prevent private citizens from leasing their properties—it merely adds the option for them to sell their land fee simple.

At Tuesday's hearing, Rabauliman said that finding a middle ground between the CNMI's ancestors and the new generation is a huge challenge but to just eliminate the protection of the lands without putting in any safeguards or even trying alternative options seems irresponsible or reckless.

"I don't see a reason not to slow it down and explore options before executing such a drastic measure," Rabauliman said.

Frannie Tenorio Demapan, who is a lawyer, said she is a person of Northern Marianas descent, a granddaughter of the late Jose Tenorio, a mother of two, and that she stands at the hearing to express her firm opposition to the initiative.

Demapan said she had the unique privilege of seeing both sides of this issue—of being raised in the tradition of the Marianas and also living and being educated in the U.S.

"And I can firmly tell you today that Article 12 is our last saving grace," she said.

Similar to Hawaii, Demapan said, the CNMI is perfectly positioned in the Pacific for foreign development, for military-related acquisition and for resort expansion. Yet to this day, she said, native Hawaiians continue to fight in order to take back control of their land because they are tired of outside interests influencing their day-to-day activities.

"They grieve the loss of their land,

similar to the way we grieve the loss of a loved one," she said.

To native Hawaiians, she said, no amount of financial gain is worth the eradication of their culture. "Mark my word. If we pass this initiative, we will be outnumbered, will be out-financed," she pointed out. "History has shown that lifting the restrictions on land alienation inevitably priced out indigenous people to the point where we no longer recognize the very place we call home."

She said they should not allow Westernized thinking to dominate local ideals. "Our land is sacred. Rich in history and worthy of our protection. Keep native land in native hand," Demapan said.

Richard Hofschneider said he opposes his youngest brother's initiative in its entirety. Richard Hofschneider

JURY

From Page 1

to prison for decades when he is sentenced in about two months a case that triggered worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

The verdict set off jubilation mixed with sorrow across the city and around the nation. Hundreds of people poured into the streets of Minneapolis, some running through traffic with banners. Drivers blared their horns in celebration.

"Today, we are able to breathe again," Floyd's younger brother Philonise said at a joyous family news conference where tears streamed down his face as he likened Floyd to the 1955 Mississippi lynching victim Emmett Till, except that this time there were cameras around to show the world what happened.

The jury of six whites and six Black or multiracial people came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days.

The now-fired white officer was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin's face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom. His bail was immediately revoked. Sentencing will be in two months; the most serious charge carries up to 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson followed Chauvin out of the courtroom without comment.

President Joe Biden welcomed the verdict, saying Floyd's death was "a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world" to see systemic racism.

for the community.

Atalig said they want to make sure that they spend these ARPA funds wisely. He said that, as he always share and advice, they should try to get the best return on the investment or the value from these funds. "When we spend on infrastructure, we want to make sure that these activities will generate or help in our recovery of our economy in a couple of years, so that we can have something to be sustainable for the future of the Commonwealth," Atalig said.

said his brother has the constitutional duty to do that, but that he himself has a constitutional, moral, and cultural to stand at the hearing. Richard Hofschneider said Senate Initiative 22-01 is not good for future generations and an injustice against people.

"This issue is critical for future generations," he said, suggesting that the committee should open up more public hearings.

Patricia Seman Rasa, a Refalu-

wasch and Chamorro descent, said she does not usually come out publicly on most issues but Article 12 is something that brings out her maternal instinct to show up and be heard. Rasa has four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

and juries to consider holding officers who commit these kinds of acts accountable," he said.

"In the longer view, this is another step toward full justice for men and women of color—both in their interactions with police and with society at large. Many more steps are needed, and many have already happened, but the guilty verdict is an important step in the right direction. Perhaps most importantly, this verdict may bolster hope in the millions of people who feel the criminal justice system, particularly policing, is unfair, and who have long feared that bad actors may never be truly held to account," he added.

Rauschenberger, who started the BLM protests on the CNMI by standing at the San Jose and Atkins-Kroll intersection and holding up a banner for an entire week, said that yesterday's guilty verdict means that it is now possible to expect such verdicts in cases of police brutality, but also pointed out that the prejudice and violence in policing are built into the system and will not end until the system itself has ended. "I believe in the dismantling and abolishment of the police and the complete reformation of America's justice system. What that will ultimately look like, I can't say, but it starts with defunding and demilitarizing police forces and reinvesting that money into communities who have been harmed," said Rauschenberger.

"The Black Lives Matter movement was an integral part of this conviction. Communities around the country stood their ground against tear gas, rubber bullets, and other forms of aggression from the police, and people all over the world turned out to show solidarity with those who were putting their safety on the line to fight for justice not only for George Floyd, but for the hundreds of other Black people killed by state sanctioned violence and white supremacy in the U.S.," Rauschenberger added.

Rauschenberger is quick to point out, however, that the guilty verdict only paves the way for accountability and not justice. "I would like to echo the sentiment of many Black Americans who have pointed out that this verdict represents accountability, but not justice. Justice would be George Floyd alive and at home with his family today. Justice would be the complete dismantling and reformation of America's police forces and prisons."

"The conviction of Derek Chauvin for a murder that we all saw him commit should have been something we could take for granted, not a moment where people across the country held their breath to see if the justice system would fail once again. ... George Floyd's life always mattered, and it's a horrific fact that it needed to be proven in this way," Rauschenberger added.

ERRATUM

A story titled "Miracle Hands creates program for at-risk youth" that was published on April 21, 2021, of *Saipan Tribune* incorrectly stated that Youth Empowerment Solutions is part of Miracle Hands Charity. This is incorrect and it is actually separate from Miracle Hands Charity. Our apologies for the error. The story has been rewritten and is being republished today to reflect the correction.

WAITING

From Page 1

under the American Rescue Plan Act.

"The information that we are using to come up with our spending plan is based on the American Rescue Plan Act's details of where we can spend the money on and what our priorities are," said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig during a radio news briefing last Friday.

"So the details of that plan is not ready to be submitted to U.S. Treas-

ury until the U.S. Treasury gives us guidance," he said.

Right now, Atalig said, they are using the U.S. Treasury's guidelines from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the disaster relief bill until the new guidelines come out.

He said they have been meeting in the Executive Branch and will be having talks with the mayors on how to go with the allocations. They are also meeting with the CNMI Legislature's leaders to discuss the allocations that they want

for the community.

Atalig said they want to make sure that they spend these ARPA funds wisely. He said that, as he always share and advice, they should try to get the best return on the investment or the value from these funds. "When we spend on infrastructure, we want to make sure that these activities will generate or help in our recovery of our economy in a couple of years, so that we can have something to be sustainable for the future of the Commonwealth," Atalig said.

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Removal of derelict fishing vessel to begin in May

A Saipan-based environmental non-profit organization called Pacific Coastal Research & Planning will oversee the removal of the derelict fishing vessel *Lady Carolina* from the Saipan Lagoon beginning in early May.

The project is expected to take approximately two months to complete.

PCRP has hired several Saipan- and Guam-based contractors—Smithbridge Guam, Tano Group, Deep Blue LLC, Koa Consulting, and Johnston Applied Marine Sciences—to conduct the removal, disposal, and environmental monitoring activities related to this project.

The *Lady Carolina* is an 83-foot, 54-ton, steel-hulled fishing vessel that has been grounded in a shallow, highly visible area of the central Saipan Lagoon since it broke free of its mooring during the devastating passing of category 4 Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015. The vessel was further damaged during Typhoon Yutu in 2018. Removing the grounded vessel will prevent further environmental impacts to sensitive habitat, such as coral reefs, and endangered species.

Funding for this removal effort is being provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program and



the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund. This project has also received continual support from local government partners, including the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management and Division of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The *Lady Carolina* is one of many abandoned and derelict vessels, or ADVs, in the

CNMI. ADVs can obstruct navigational channels, damage ecosystems, and diminish the recreational value of the surrounding areas. ADVs are difficult and expensive to remove and therefore may persist for years, breaking apart and creating widespread debris fields that threaten marine and coastal environments. Most of the ADVs in the CNMI, including the *Lady Carolina*, are a result of typhoons. PCRP would like to remind boat owners in the CNMI to practice storm preparedness and properly secure vessels and equipment in order to prevent additional

ADV and marine debris.

For more information on the removal of the *Lady Caro-*

lina and project activities, visit PCRP's website at pacificcrp.org or contact Becky Skeele,

TREVOR HEILAND/SMITHBRIDGE GUAM INC.
The wreck of the *Lady Carolina* rests in the shallow waters of the central Saipan Lagoon in this photo taken in December 2019.

executive director of Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, at becky.skeele@pacificcrp.org.

About

Based on Saipan, PCRP is a small non-profit committed to better understanding and improving coastal environments in the Pacific region. Our work draws on a wide-range of expertise and capacities, including environmental planning, geospatial services, fisheries management, marine monitoring and research, and coastal hazard mitigation. (PR)

Yap files motions to delay murder trials to August

COLONIA, Yap—The state of Yap has asked the local court to delay until August 2021 the trials of the two suspects in the murder of Yap's former acting attorney general, Rachelle Bergeron-Hammerling.

This comes soon after several prior hearing and trial dates in the case were rescheduled or cancelled. Legal proceedings have been slow due to the closing of the FSM's border on Jan. 31, 2020, when the pandemic hit. Bergeron-Hammerling, 33, an American citizen, was slain on Oct. 14, 2019, outside her house near Colonia, the island's only town. The two suspects in the case are Anthony Tun and Francis Choay Buchun. The 19 charges against the two suspects include murder,



Hammerling

defendant's right to speedy trial and other issues on which the court needs to hear the parties. The court will set a date and time for the hearing." That date has not been set yet. Concurrently,

FSM Supreme Court has been proceeding slowly with its case against the two defendants for weapons and ammunition possession. Associate Justice Larry Wentworth also postponed those trials until July, tentatively, based on the opening of the nation's borders at some yet-to-be-announced time in the future. Wentworth has used Zoom in the courtroom to conference in all of the participants during hearings, but the connection is not reliable or optimal. Legal counsels for both the prosecution and defense, and witnesses from the FSM National Police and Yap State Police who participated in the investigation, arrests and interrogations, are based in Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap. Other potential witnesses include FBI agents who traveled to Yap to provide support for the police immediately after the incident and are based outside the country.

According to the emergency declaration issued by FSM President David Panuelo to prevent COVID-19 from entering the country, interstate travel between the four island states is permitted since they are all COVID-free. But, the legal proceedings have been delayed until the border opens to allow witnesses from outside the country to be present at the trials. The emergency declaration, which expires on May 31, has been extended every three months since its inception and may be extended again by the president and the FSM Congress. (Joyce McClure)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Regular Board Meeting – March 31, 2021
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Old Business
 - a. Office Space Lease
 - b. MVA-Tinian and Rota
- 4) Executive Session
- 5) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 6) Adjournment

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

No live audience at Saipan Wind Band Festival this Sunday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 4th Annual Saipan Wind Band Festival, hosted by Mount Carmel School and sponsored by the Public School System, is happening this Sunday, April 25, but with no live audience due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Instead, the festival, which will take place from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, will be recorded and shared with the public at a later date.

About 100 musicians are set to perform, consisting of Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band members, 88 middle schoolers from Saipan International School, Saipan Community School, Mount Carmel School, and Marianas High School, and a group of senior citizens. The event was originally scheduled to happen in April 2020, but was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The event will feature sets

YES to expand programs for CNMI's at-risk youth

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Youth Empowerment Solutions, or YES, a humanitarian organization that works to help and treat at-risk youth, plans to expand its services and programs to include interest exploration and career advancement programs.

Diego "DJ" Manglona Sablan, who is chief executive officer of YES, said the organization has been working closely with the Division of Youth Services since YES' creation in January 2020 to help and treat at-risk youth, such as those that frequently get put in after-school detention.



Sablan

Sablan is happy with the group's progress so far and that those who need treatment are receiving help, but he said he is dedicated to accomplishing even more with the organization. Satisfied with what he terms as YES' "clinical side," in 2021 he plans to nurture YES' "educational side."

Those future plans for YES' educational services include interest exploration and career advancement programs. "One thing I found out with the young people is that they have to find their interests. Once you find the interest, most likely they'll be more willing to be involved with treatment," Sablan said. Guided by these findings, Sablan has plans for YES to have interest exploration programs where, in collaboration with

from each of the schools' bands, and two combined band performances: a 40-musician beginner/intermediate band, and a 60-musician advanced band. The performances will feature the sounds of the flute, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. "This event will be a great opportunity for young musicians to experience and learn what they can't at each school ... We hope to continue this annual event as long as possible," said Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band director Atsuko Eck.

When asked about her thoughts on a crowdless event, COVID-19, and organizing an event during a pandemic, Eck expressed sympathy for the parents of performers, thanks those who helped to make the event possible, and is just grateful to be back in the swing of things a year later.

"It was [a] difficult deci-

sion for us to not have any audience. But there was no other choice. Of course, I feel bad, especially for musician's parents and families. But the main purpose of this event is giving opportunity to young musicians to meet new friends, watch other bands play, play together in [a] large ensemble, have fun through music. I'm simply happy and grateful to be able to achieve that goal, especially under this pandemic condition," said Eck. "I appreciate all of support from the community, families and friends, each school, especially

Mount Carmel School, who gave us big support to process the paperwork and facilities for rehearsal."

Following the music festival, the MCS band is slated

to have a spring concert, and Saipan Pacific Winds will play at the Memorial Day Ceremony, which is normally held at the Veterans' Cemetery in Marpi.

The performances and pictures of the event will be uploaded to Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band's Facebook page as soon as they are made available.



The advanced-skill combined band held their first rehearsal last Saturday at the Mount Carmel School Gym under the direction of MCS Band director Julian Greening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Earth Day!

missnorthernmarianasearch

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NORTHERN MARIANAS

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A verdict that must change America

Now a nation that was holding its breath for justice can exhale.

In one of the most significant racial justice cases in U.S. history, a white Minneapolis police officer has been convicted of murdering an unarmed, handcuffed Black man.

A diverse 12-member jury of Minnesotans found former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of second- and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter on Tuesday. And the image of Chauvin driving his knee into the neck of George Floyd for 9 minutes and 29 seconds is forever seared into the American and global psyche.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill presided over a well-run trial, fairly allowing both the defense and prosecution to mount vigorous cases—all livestreamed for a global audience. In this milestone, racially charged case, justice was truly served.

Floyd's death had significance far beyond the outcome of his killer's trial. It was senseless and criminal, but it was not in vain. The May 2020 murder on a Minneapolis street sparked multiracial protests around the world, focusing new attention on decades of unfair treatment of Blacks and other people of color.

Perhaps combined with the yearlong COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate toll on Americans of color, Floyd's death opened millions of eyes, hearts and minds to what decades of racism have wrought. Veteran activists and new allies have come together in the name of racial justice and Black Lives Matter.

The ongoing reckoning has focused not only on policing but also on disparities in housing, education, business, sports and the arts. More than ever, Americans are stepping up to view work, service and other aspects of their daily lives through the popularly dubbed "equity lens" and challenging our systems to be more inclusive and more just.

Reliving what happened last May through Chauvin's trial helped humanize Floyd and, by extension, others who have made mistakes in their lives, including those struggling with drug addiction and chemical dependency. Americans with drug problems or previous run-ins with the law too often receive unequal treatment in our courts. That needs to change.

The trial also brought home the emotional impact of police deadly force deaths on individuals and communities. The pain resonated in the heart-wrenching testimony of Darnella Frazier, who was just 17 the day she and her 9-year-old cousin watched Floyd die.

"When I look at George Floyd, I look at my dad, I look at my brothers, I look at my cousins, my uncles, because they are all Black," said Frazier, who recorded the cellphone video of Floyd's death and posted it on Facebook so that it could not be ignored.

Even so, she wonders if that was enough. "It's been nights I stayed up apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more and not physically interacting and not saving his life."

The world could see and hear Frazier's testimony be-

See AMERICA on Next Page

GEORGE FLOYD DIED BECAUSE OF A BAD HEART:

Judge © 2021 KING FEATURES



Race went unmentioned in closings, but what if George Floyd had been white?

Steve Schleicher never mentioned race. The attorney prosecuting former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for killing George Floyd by cutting off his breath never called it a race-based assault. Not once in his summation did Schleicher, a special assistant Minnesota attorney general, point out that Floyd was a Black man, and Chauvin a white police officer. He made no reference to the multiple other recent deaths of Black men and boys at the hands—or guns—of white officers. He sidestepped the sheer mathematical probability that even a minor arrest related to a broken taillight, a joint found in a car or a counterfeit \$20 bill would more likely result in death when the subjects are Black.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson said nothing about race either. But it was there in their summations, the ultimate elephant in the courtroom. It was in police officers' apparent perceptions of a dangerous crowd and neighborhood—and man. Both sides probably knew better than to risk polarizing a Minneapolis jury on a topic the nation still can't seem to come to grips with: racial bias, especially by police.

Still, plenty was said in their respective narratives of what was going on that day last May.

Schleicher, for his part, went to great lengths not to impugn police as a whole as guilty of institutional racism. He highlighted the Minneapolis Police Department's motto "to protect and serve with courage." He said, "This is not an anti-police prosecution. This is a pro-police prosecution," and, "There's nothing worse for a good police than a bad police."

By his summary, two officers including Chauvin first insisted on forcing Floyd into the back of a car, though the space was small and he kept pleading he had claustrophobia and anxiety. On video you can hear his pleas and groans. Yet Schleicher said Floyd thanked the officers—before they got him prone on the street, where the excessive force began.

For 9 minutes, 29 seconds, "George Floyd struggled desperately to breathe," said Schleicher, explaining that the lungs in his chest were unable to expand because there wasn't enough room with Chauvin's knee pressing down on his neck. Floyd was "trapped by an unyielding pavement and an unyielding man who held him down."

"He desperately pushed with his knuckles and his face to lift himself, to open up his chest, to give his lungs room to breathe."

Not only was it unnecessary to have Floyd on the ground when he never threatened anyone, but there were multiple moments, the prosecutor said, when Floyd could have been saved with CPR, by positioning him on his side, or by doing chest compressions.

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.



Therefore, he said, "These actions were not policing. These actions were an assault."

Noting that the police intervention was over a \$20 counterfeit bill, Schleicher said, "All that was required was a little compassion, and none was shown that day." Instead, Chauvin continued to grind into Floyd, hold him down and twist his fingers "beyond the point that he had a pulse."

"You saw the defendant facing down the crowd, the body language, the kind of ego-based pride ... (he) was not going to be told what to do by the bystanders. The bystanders were powerless to do anything. The defendant was trying to win. He wasn't going to take a challenge to his authority, and George Floyd paid for it with his life."

If Schleicher's summation was made with impassioned indignation, Nelson's was more akin to a school teacher patiently trying to employ common sense to "look at the facts as a reasonable officer" would have viewed them. He noted Floyd's drug use, carbon monoxide from car exhaust, the prospects of an accident—anything but racial bias "The standard isn't what should or could an officer have done, but what facts were known at the moment," he said.

But then the buzzwords started coming out—the officers being in a "densely populated urban environment," the initial call to police from a convenience store manager who described Floyd as 6 feet tall or taller, paying with a counterfeit \$20 and seeming "under the influence."

Does that sound to you like a crisis? When Chauvin and another officer arrived as backup for two who were struggling to get Floyd into a car, "They don't know what's going on," Nelson asserted.

Couldn't they have asked? Floyd wasn't armed or threatening, and if he was under the influence, they should have tried de-escalation tactics. He was just terrified of getting claustrophobic inside a small back seat and pleading with officers not to force him in.

See RACE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The CNMI Constitution and CNMI law require both houses of the Legislature to adopt new rules of procedure at the beginning of every term. This process of adopting rules is unique to the leg-

COVID Contemplation & Commentary**LITERARY NOOK**

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

April first vaccine numbers burst, COVID thirst driving near a cemetery, dying to get away
 COVID tragicomedy commentary had two vaccine shots of Pfizer
 mask and restrictions still in place
 don't feel any wiser
 two shots of RNA vaccine
 had the same of Irish whiskey
 COVID spring cleaning
 nurse says hello, now I'm a two shot fellow,
 arm a little sore but feeling mellow
 April first vaccine numbers burst,
 COVID losing some thirst
 no shaking any person's hands
 COVID in downward spiral,
 CDC has published new plans
 church meetings, elbow greetings, distant seatings
 vaccine variants a global godsend, COVID conjure
 no kisses or hugs, case numbers go viral, helpless shrugs
 bull in the pasture bossing heifers, old herd immunity
 washing hands the umpteenth time, COVID commands
 complaints, pouts, negative doubts, science dropouts
 hair pulled out, forgot what's inside, psyche needs help
 virus voyagers blowing in from Brazil, U.K. yesterday
 pandemic no myth, year two of COVID, still reading Ovid
 inside coping wishing and hoping, outside wide open
 staying home with books and poem, tomorrow roam
 many stores closed, buying from home, COVID Center
 but I ain't blue, got my shots too, just like you
 not feeling ill, two shots, I've had my fill,
 now it is chance, good luck and God's will
 contemplation, eternal elation, cremation.

AMERICA

From Page 8

cause Chauvin's trial was the first in Minnesota history to be captured live on camera. It should not be the last.

The gavel-to-gavel coverage brought a deeper understanding of what happened in the courtroom, allowing viewers to see the evidence and hear testimony of witnesses and experts. The transparency was welcome—and necessary.

Few who watched Darnella Frazier's video will ever forget the horrendously cruel way Floyd died—pinned beneath a cop's knee while begging for his mother, his breath and his life. Yet even before Chauvin's trial concluded, Daunte Wright's killing at the hands of a Brooklyn Center police officer added another video to America's infamous collection.

It's imperative that America take action now—not just with reforms in policing but also by creating a more just and inclusive society. We have a verdict in Derek Chauvin's murder trial and justice for George Floyd. Now we need lasting change and justice for all.

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On the House's tie-breaking rule

islative branch, the first of three co-equal branches in our system of government.

A few months ago, in January 2021, all 20 members of the 22nd House of Representatives voted to adopt the Interim Rules of the House of Representatives pursuant to Article II, Section 14(c) of the CNMI Constitution, and Title 1, Section 1104 of the Commonwealth Code. One of these rules allows the Speaker to vote twice in order to break a tie.

The tie-breaking rule is not new. It is, in fact, a House rule that has been in place for nearly a decade. All of our incumbent Republican colleagues have voted in favor of adopting this tie-breaking rule before, and at least since the 18th Legislature, every Republican speaker has had this tie-breaking power. And it was never an issue.

Until now.

Our current speaker is an Independent. He is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. In this narrowly divided 22nd House, Speaker Edmund Villagomez has been called upon several times to exercise his tie-breaking authority. As he has expressed to many of us, it is not an action he takes lightly. Each time he has used this power, he has voted with 10 members and against 10 members. Sometimes he has voted with the Democrats, and other times he has voted with the Republicans.

Before the speaker first invoked the rule that grants him tie-breaking power, he and the other members of the House leadership consulted with legal counsel. Our House counsel, in turn, also consulted with Senate counsel. All four attorneys of the Legislative Bureau agreed that the speaker's exercise of tie-breaking authority—known as the “casting vote”—was legitimate and constitutional. In their opinion, there was nothing questionable or uncertain about the use of this power.

The tie-breaking rule was first established by a Republican-dominated House in 2013, but Republicans didn't make up that rule out of thin air. Mason's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure uphold the legitimacy of the presiding officer's casting vote and the legislative interest in breaking ties to meet the simple majority requirement and pass legislation.

Pursuant to House Rules, Mason's applies whenever controversies arise. Indeed, the speaker's casting vote power has been used before, even without an express rule in the official House Rules, during the term of the 17th Legislature. When a tie occurred, the 17th House turned to Mason's for guidance. What they found in Mason's, Section 514(3) is that, “On rare occasions, the casting vote has been given to a presiding officer who is a regular member who may first vote as a member and then may vote again to break a tie.”

So, even without an express rule, the members of the 17th Legislature allowed their Republican speaker to vote twice. And in the 18th Legislature Republicans made sure to adopt this tie-breaking rule, which has been in the operating rules of the House ever since.

House Republicans only objected to the tie-breaking rule after Speaker Villagomez voted twice in order to pass a bill that they didn't like. That particular bill, H.B. 22-33, asserts the Legis-

RACE

From Page 8

Why not just sit him down on the sidewalk and talk to him?

“It's not uncommon for suspects to feign or pretend to have a medical emergency in order to get out of being arrested,” said Nelson.

So instead, in response to what Nelson called Floyd's “active resistance,” the officers felt it necessary to “achieve effective physical control.” Then, by Nelson's depiction, when a crowd started gathering—some of them pleading with Chauvin to stop applying force as Floyd begged for air—officers saw “potential signs of aggression.”

“A reasonable officer would consider, ‘Should we elevate the use of force?’ They did.”

“A reasonable police officer recognizes the crowd is in crisis.” Well, wouldn't you be, watching an officer kill someone?

“Never underestimate a crowd's potential.” Or this one's because it was mostly Black?

In fact, the crowd was in crisis. There's been reporting on the intense trauma, especially to young witnesses, of what they saw

lature's power of the purse over half a billion dollars in fiscal recovery monies coming to the CNMI through the American Rescue Plan Act. H.B. 22-33 also ensures that decision-making over this vast sum of money will not be left up to a single person, the governor. The bill was passed out of the House with a majority vote of 11-10.

After this vote, House Republicans turned to the attorney general and questioned the constitutionality of the tie-breaking vote. In a letter addressed only to House Republicans, the attorney general claimed that the tie-breaking rule contravenes Article II, Section 5(c) of the CNMI Constitution, which requires a majority of votes cast for legislation to pass. The attorney general also acknowledged, however, that the Constitution is silent as to how ties should be broken.

In the 22nd Legislature, during deliberations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rules, it was our Republican allies in the new House majority who suggested we change the tie-breaking rule. In the spirit of bipartisanship, House Democrats were open to making that change. We even helped draft the proposed language. But the new proposed rules were never adopted or even debated. Our floor leader, the chair of the Ad Hoc Rules Committee (and also, by the way, a Republican) took them off the calendar, and the interim rules that were unanimously adopted at the inaugural session have become the permanent rules.

But why does this matter? Who really cares about the arcane nuances of parliamentary procedures? Should we spend lots of government resources asking the Supreme Court to decide our rules for us, as the attorney general has suggested we do? We say no. The ability of the Legislature to establish our own rules and interpret what they mean is inherently and exclusively ours.

Legislators must work together to solve problems. This is always true, but especially in an even-numbered House where votes can and do split right down the middle. We have a well-established rule in place that helps us break ties. Republicans agreed with that rule, until they did not. If Democrat proposals passed with the speaker's casting vote must fail, then so too must Republican proposals. Our Republican colleagues can't pick and choose which bills they are OK with the speaker voting twice on, and which they are not.

Rules of procedure shouldn't change with the wind: stability is important for the orderly conduct of legislative business. But rules can be changed, and strengthened, if enough members agree. Members just have to come together in the first place to get to that agreement—and, indeed, to get anything done at all. At the end of the day, this is clearly a political question best left to 20 legislators to figure out—not three justices, not the attorney general.

Reps. Christina Sablan, Ed Propst, Leila Staffler, Sheila Babauta, Denita Yangetmai, Donald Manglona, Celina Babauta, Vicente Camacho, Richard Lizama

22nd Legislature, Capital Hill

happen: a man's life snuffed out in front of their eyes by another man wearing a badge.

When firefighter Genevieve Hansen arrived and saw blood coming out of Floyd's nose and wanted to check his pulse and give him medical aid, she wasn't allowed to. Nelson said Chauvin told her EMTs were on the way. But even then, he didn't remove his knee from Floyd's neck.

The painful irony is that, while making his case, Nelson was playing videos in which Floyd could be seen while lying prone, unable to move, crying, “Mama, Mama. I love you. ... I can't breathe.”

Apparently Chauvin's defense attorney didn't even consider that a reasonable person might watch that, be traumatized and find his client guilty of murder or manslaughter. Would he have played that tape or made that assumption if Floyd had been white?

If Floyd had been white, would any of this have even happened?

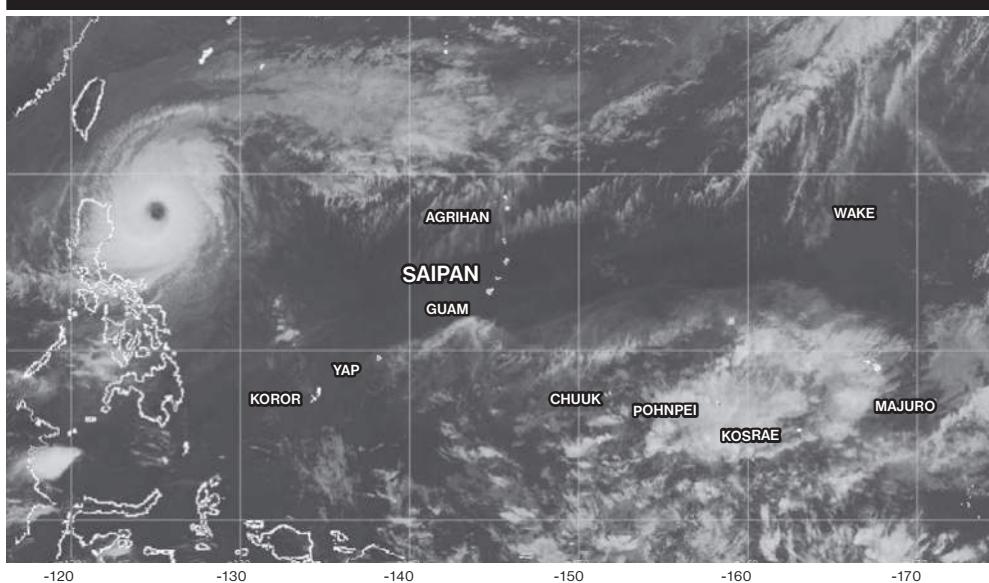
I don't believe it would have. But Tuesday's verdict at least reminds us there are reasonable people who saw through the hoax of Chauvin's defense. And that the next time a police officer contemplates using excessive force, knowing what happened to Chauvin—if nothing else—will end it there.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:59 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly sunny skies and only a few showers within the Marianas Waters. Similar weather is seen to the east all the way to 158E. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, composed mainly of a typhoon swell from just a little to the north of west with just a bit of east-northeast trade-wind swell mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA		
	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 79 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:08 AM	1:50 PM
Friday	-	2:53 AM	2:47 PM
Saturday	-	3:38 AM	3:45 PM
Sunday	-	4:21 AM	4:43 PM
Monday	-	5:05 AM	5:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	66 55 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72 50 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 75 °F
Honolulu	Cloudy	83 71 °F
London	Cloudy	60 46 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	79 57 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95 80 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	78 58 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80 70 °F
New York	Cloudy	65 57 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	67 55 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	58 34 °F
Pusan	Cloudy	64 48 °F
Rome	Sunny	61 42 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	57 40 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	64 51 °F
Seoul	Rain	59 43 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	67 52 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83 64 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:37 AM	High Tide	1.81
10:20 AM	Low Tide	1.20
2:47 PM	High Tide	1.56
9:59 PM	Low Tide	0.18

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 4, 5, 6				UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 4, 5, 6							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam							
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5							
UA183 7:05pm 8:50pm 5				UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021											
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	2101	7:30	7:45</td					

Pick up trash
Turn off lights
Reduce, reuse, and recycle
Walk, bike, or car pool
Turn off the faucet when brushing
Do gardening
Make homecooked meals often



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Foundation**

Business

Apple unveils new products

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Apple spruced up its product line at an event Tuesday while slipping in quiet notice of a software update, now due next week, designed to enhance the privacy of iPhone users at the expense of digital advertisers such as Facebook.

Timing for the software upgrade trickled out during a series of announcements for new iPads, iMac computers and more during a pre-recorded event that sometimes seemed like a one-hour infomercial for Apple.

Apple also unveiled a new subscription option for podcasts and a gadget called AirTags—coin-sized devices that can be attached to keys, backpacks, purses and other items to help people track them down via iPhone if they're misplaced.

The AirTags, due in stores April 30, will require the iPhone software update called iOS 14.5. That update will also include a new feature requiring apps to obtain explicit permission from users before tracking their activity and whereabouts. Apple said in a footnote to its AirTags announcement that the update will be released at some point next week.



In this illustration photographed in La Habra, Calif., the new iMac computers are introduced during a virtual event held to announce new Apple products, Tuesday, April 20, 2021. AP

Apple had previously only said that the update would be available in the spring. A similar software update is coming out for iPads as well.

The new privacy tool could drain billions of dollars of revenue from apps such as Facebook, which rely on following people around on iPhones to collect personal information that helps them sell targeted ads.

That feature, called App Tracking Transparency, will force apps to obtain permission before collecting such surveillance data, even those that are already installed on the device. To date, such apps

have been free to track iPhone users automatically unless people take the time and trouble to prevent the snooping.

Apple originally planned to release the ant-tracking feature last September, but delayed it to give apps that are dependent “free” apps to adjust to the changes. Facebook spent part of the delay blasting Apple for a change that it says could make it difficult for smaller apps to survive without charging consumers. At the same time, Facebook has acknowledged to investors that its own ad revenue could also be hurt.

da and those restrictions are just one tool to fight the pandemic. Canada is seeing a third wave of infections particularly in Ontario where Premier Doug Ford was slow in re-imposing lockdown restrictions.

Netflix's subscriber growth, stock zapped as pandemic eases

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Netflix's pandemic-fueled subscriber growth is slowing far faster than anticipated as people who have been cooped at home are able to get out and do other things again. The video-streaming service added 4 million more worldwide subscribers from January through March, its smallest gain during that three-month period in four years. The performance reported Tuesday was about 2 million fewer subscribers than both management and analysts had predicted. Netflix would add during the first quarter. It marked a huge comedown from the same time last year when Netflix added nearly 16 million subscribers. That came just as governments around the world imposed lockdowns that created a huge captive audience for the leading video-streaming service. Signaling that the trend is continuing, Netflix forecast an increase of just 1 mil-

New Zealand to consolidate healthcare into national service

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand announced Wednesday it will consolidate its fragmented healthcare system into a national service similar to the one revered by many in Britain. New Zealand's government-run system is currently divided into 20 district health boards, each with their own budget. Some describe the system as a “postcode lottery” of different treatment depending on where people live. Health Minister Andrew Little said that over three years, the district boards will be replaced by a single new body called Health New Zealand. He promised an increased focus on public health and treating people early so they don't end up in hospitals. He said the coronavirus pandemic had forced the system into a rare and welcomed collaboration but it wasn't how it usually worked. The overhaul also includes a new Indigenous Maori Health Authority.

Nation

GUILTY VERDICTS IN FLOYD'S DEATH Joy, but also wariness

By AARON MORRISON,
GILLIAN FLACCUS and
JACQUELYN MARTIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

London Williams stood in Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C., moments before the verdict was read in George Floyd's murder trial Tuesday, wondering how he would cope if the white police officer who killed the Black man was acquitted.

“I feel very nervous. It's already hard as it is as a Black man in today's society,” said Williams, standing with a date in the space near the White House renamed after Floyd's death last May. “If this doesn't go right, I don't know how safe I will feel.”

Then, the verdict came for former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin: guilty on all counts. Williams, 31, doubled over with emotion, covered his face and wept.

With that outcome, Black Americans from Missouri to Florida to Minnesota cheered, marched, hugged, waved signs and sang jubilantly in the streets. The joy and relief stood in stark contrast to the anger and sometimes violent protests that engulfed the country following Floyd's death.

But Tuesday's celebrations were tempered with the heavy knowledge that Chauvin's conviction was just a first step on the long road to address racial injustices by police.

Many said they had prepared for a different result after watching countless deaths of people of color at the hands of police who went unpunished. The shooting death of another Black man, Daunte Wright, by officers in suburban Minneapolis during the trial and of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago last month heightened tensions and muted the court victory for many.

In Columbus, Ohio, some residents had their celebration over the verdict cut short by reports that police fatally shot a teenage Black girl. “As you're getting one phone call that he was guilty, I'm getting the next phone call that this is happening in my neighborhood,” Kimberly Shepherd said. Several hours later, police released body-camera footage that appeared to show the officer firing just as the girl lunged at another female



London Williams, 31, of Harrisburg, Pa., bursts into tears on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Washington, after hearing that former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder and manslaughter in the death of George Floyd. AP

with a knife.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson traveled to Minneapolis for the verdict, and said there was relief but no celebrating “because the killing continues.”

“Finally we did get some justice,” Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, a Black man who died at the hands of police in New York City in 2014, said after pronouncing herself “elated” at the verdict. No criminal charges were brought in her son's death; his last words were “I can't breathe,” which became a rallying cry among activists.

In St. Louis, a police association of about 260 predominantly Black officers called the verdict important but “a pebble in the ocean.”

“Yet, why should we be thankful for something that is right? Why should we be thankful when George Floyd doesn't have his life or his future?” the Ethical Society of Police said in a statement.

Many saw the trial as a litmus test for how sincere Americans are about racial justice and consequential police reform after Floyd's death set off global protests. Jurors in the high-profile case deliberated for 10 hours over two days. Chauvin was handcuffed and taken into custody immediately after the verdict was read.

“It means so much to me,” said Venisha Johnson, a Black woman who cried at a gathering in what's been dubbed George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. “I've been praying for George every day, every morning at 6 a.m. I'm just so happy. The way he was murdered was terrible! But thank you, Jesus.”

In Los Angeles, several dozen people gathered to celebrate at the corner of

Florence and Normandie avenues, which was the scene of chaos and violence in 1992 when the city dissolved into riots after four officers were acquitted in the beating of motorist Rodney King. A Black man in a Lakers cap danced and chanted: “Get used to this, get used to justice!” Passing cars blared their horns as demonstrators waved signs and Black Lives Matter flags.

In Houston's Third Ward, the historically Black neighborhood where Floyd grew up, a small crowd gathered under a tent near a mural of Floyd to listen as the verdict was read on TV. People driving by honked their car horns and yelled, “Justice!”

“We're feeling good. We thank everybody that stood with us. It's a blessed moment,” said Jacob David, 39, who knew Floyd and wiped away tears.

Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, as Chauvin pressed a knee to his neck and the graphic bystander video that captured him pleading that he couldn't breathe shocked and appalled the world and triggered protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

“We've just become so accustomed to not receiving justice. I'm just so very, very overwhelmed right now,” said Tesia Lisbon, a community activist in Florida's capital of Tallahassee.

Lisbon was one of 19 people arrested by police last September during a Black Lives Matter march.

“We just got so used to not hearing good news, to not having the justice system on your side for so long,” Lisbon said.

Law enforcement in many cities had prepared for unrest.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hawaii eases virus rules for inter-island travel

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii officials are moving forward with a plan to allow people who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus to skip pre-travel testing and quarantine requirements for flights between islands. The rule, for now, is only for people who have received vaccinations in Hawaii and for travel within the state. The plan does not change anyone's ability to travel and avoid quarantine by testing, but adds another option for those who have received the shots. In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is extending travel restrictions that make it mandatory for air travelers to quarantine in a hotel at their own expense when they arrive in Canada. He's also thanking the country's two major airlines for extending a voluntary suspension of flights to Mexico and all Caribbean destinations until May 21. The measures were first announced in January. Trudeau is reiterating that now is not the time to travel. He says Canada's strict travel, testing, and quarantine measures are extremely important. But he notes international travel directly accounts for a small amount of cases in Cana-

World

Chad president Itno dies, 68

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—President Idriss Deby Itno, who ruled Chad for more than 30 years and became an important ally to Western nations in the fight against Islamic extremism in Africa, has been killed while battling against rebels in the north, according to the military. He was 68.

The announcement Tuesday came hours after Deby had been declared the winner of an election that would have

given him another six years in power. The circumstances of his death remained murky, and his son was quickly appointed to lead a transitional rule.

Deby, a northerner and French-trained army officer, rose through the ranks of the armed forces. In the 1980s, he was key in pushing pro-Libyan forces from Chad. He then led the Sudanese-supported Patriotic Salvation Movement in a rebellion in 1990 to over-

throw Chadian dictator Hissene Habre, who was later convicted of human rights abuses at an international tribunal in Senegal.

After assuming the office of the presidency in 1991, he consolidated a military regime, survived numerous rebellions, coup attempts and economic crises to become one of Africa's lon-

gest-ruling leaders. He held onto power through various elections marred by allegations of fraud, and eventually passed a constitutional referendum in 2005 that eliminated presidential term limits and paved the way for his reelections in 2006 up until this latest election in April.

Though he led an oil-producing country, critics de-

nounce Deby for using proceeds toward his military and weapons rather than aid for Chadians.

Despite criticism of his autocratic rule, Western nations consistently looked the other way as Deby's army became a key player in the fight against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad

region and against Islamic extremists in the Sahel. The force also has international support from Chad hosts the base for the French military's Operation Barkhane and supplies critical troops to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, an alliance with Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania to combat growing extremism in the Sahel. The force also has international support from

France, the U.S. and the European Union.



Itno

Report: Mideast countries top 2020 global executioners list

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Apart from China and despite a worldwide drop in death sentences, countries in the Middle East remained among the world's leading executioners last year, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The number of executions worldwide plummeted to its lowest level in over a decade, with at least 483 people executed in 2020, compared to 657 the previous year, as the coronavirus pandemic slowed criminal trials and disrupted scheduled executions.

Four states in the region—Iran, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia—topped the global list and pressed on with shootings, beheadings and hangings, ignoring pleas by rights groups to halt executions during the pandemic, the report said.

Although counts in the na-

tions fell in line with global trends, largely due to Saudi legal reforms, the countries carried out 88% of the world's total known executions in 2020, according to the London-based rights group that campaigns for abolition of the death penalty.

The numbers show the region is "truly out of sync with the rest of the world," said Heba Morayef, Amnesty's director for the Middle East and North Africa. "The Middle East stands out as a region that clings to the use of the death penalty after deeply unfair trials."

Egypt executed more than three times as many condemned prisoners in 2020 as it did the year before, overtaking Saudi Arabia as the world's third-most prodigious executioner, the report said.

Brazil COVID cases still soaring among unprotected majority

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's slowly unfolding vaccination program appears to have slowed the pace of deaths among the nation's elderly, according to death certificate data, but COVID-19 is still taking a rising toll as unprotected younger people get sick.

People 80 and over accounted for a quarter of the nation's COVID-19 deaths in February, but less than a fifth in

March, according to data provided to The Associated Press on Tuesday by Arpen-Brasil, an association which represents thousands of the notaries who record death certificates in Brazil.

But relatively few beyond the elderly have been protected: Less than 9 million of Brazil's 210 million residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according

to Our World in Data, an online research site.

Confirmed new infections from the virus among all age groups jumped about 70 percent between December and March: Reported cases rose from 1.3 million in December to 1.5 million in January, to 1.36 million in February and to 2.25 million in March.

But among people aged 20 to 59 the death toll tripled

from February to March, hitting 23,366, according to the notaries.

Gustavo Renato Fiscarelli, the president of Arpen-Brasil, said the figures show the importance of vaccines as well as the danger of people letting down their guard. "There needs to be precaution by younger people, who have been proportionally more affected by the number of deaths."

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/ELC-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 4TH, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

"COMMUNITY DISEASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CDMS)"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-21-2027**

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease
Submission /Closing Date: April 23, 2021 Time: 1:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after April 14, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. Box 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/ • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cnmiports.com

**NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, May 25, 2021, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/CCDF-077**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 20, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M

"(A) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR SAIPAN (B) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR TINIAN (CIF TINIAN), (C) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR ROTA (CIF ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY OF DCCA**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.**

Environment

Happy Earth Day, CNMI!

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today marks the 51st celebration of Earth Day, an international event celebrated by a billion people from over 190 countries all over the world, to provide a voice for the Earth, to raise awareness, and highlight environmental concerns impacting everyone on the planet.

Here in the CNMI, Earth Day is celebrated through the annual islandwide cleanup where volunteers—groups or individuals—gather together and adopt an area to clean up.

Last year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the CNMI celebration was limited, but with residents still taking the time to pick up trash around the island. Others also regarded the pandemic as a chance for the environment to breathe, given that there were less people on island.

This year, as if to make up, the islandwide cleanup, organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, will be held on two days—April 23, Friday, from 3pm to 4:30pm, and on Saturday, from 8am to 10am.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje is inviting everyone to create and bring posters today, April 22, at 4:30pm, at Oleai on Beach Road, for a roadside waving to help raise environmental awareness.

But for those who want to celebrate today, two events are on—the Earth Day Roadside Waving, organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje, and the Earth Day cleanup at Smiling Cove, organized by the American Memorial Park.

Terlaje is inviting everyone to create posters or signs to help raise environmental awareness, and to bring them to Oleai on Beach Road for a roadside waving. Participants are also asked to wear blue or green, in support of Earth Day. Registration opens at 4:30pm and the waving begins at 5pm.

“Let’s continue to find ways to share an impactful message as we...recognize how humans impact our natural environment,” Terlaje said in a so-

cial media message. “...Signs and posters are a way to bring more attention to environmental issues and to prompt action to prevent more environmental problems. Join me this Earth Day take on an environmental strike, especially for the CNMI’s land and sea.”

For those who want to do a cleanup at the American Memorial Park instead, meet up for volunteers start at 4:30pm at the Marina Parking Lot. For a volunteer form or for more information, contact Shannon Sasamoto at sasamoto-shannon@gmail.com.

Bayani Association president Anname Adaza, who will be volunteering with members of the United Filipino Organization, said that Earth Day should encourage us to help the planet be a better place to live.

“Let us do our part, protect our environment, be mindful of our trash, dispose of it properly and get involved in any cleanup activities. That way we were able to give back to our Mother Earth.”

‘Overwhelming’ response to Kagman trash drop-off

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The household trash drop-off project initiated by Reps. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) and Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) last April 17, Saturday, proved helpful to Kagman residents, especially those who find it hard to get to the transfer station in Lower Base, or the landfill in Marpi.

Residents only needed to drive down to the Kagman 2 field to take advantage of the one-day drop-off.

According to Lizama, a total of 29 vehicles arrived on site with their household trash, filling up three full loads of huge construction containers that were then transferred to the landfill. The lawmaker also expressed appreciation to the community for the “overwhelming” response to the first community trash collection project, and for helping keep the community clean.

Staffler said the response of all the people taking advantage of the trash drop-off shows how much a transfer station is needed in the area, and that it is evidence of how important it is for people to have access

to these kinds of services.

“We really did not expect it to be so full so fast, but the cars kept coming, people are taking advantage of this. Again, it is just a temporary solution to a really big problem, and un-

til we have a transfer station in this area, we are definitely going to need to keep thinking about how to solve it,” she added.

The lawmaker also assured Kagman residents that last

Saturday’s drop-off is not the last time they will be making the service available to the community, and that they will be offering collection services for different types of trash in the future.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Residents take advantage of the first ever community trash drop off at the Kagman 2 field last April 17, Saturday. The one-day drop off is an initiative of Reps. Richard Lizama and Leila Staffler to make it easier for Kagman residents who find it hard to get to the Lower Base transfer station or the Marpi landfill to drop off their household trash.

AP sources says Biden to pledge halving greenhouse gases by 2030

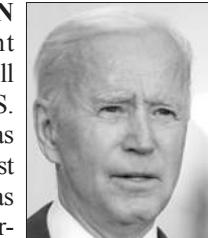
WASHINGTON

(AP)—President Joe Biden will pledge to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at least in half by 2030 as he convenes a virtual climate summit with 40 world leaders, according to three people with knowledge of the White House plans.

The 50% target would nearly double the nation’s previous commitment and help the Biden administration prod other countries for ambitious emissions cuts as well. The proposal would require dramatic changes in the power and transportation sectors, including significant increases in renewable energy such as wind and solar power and steep cuts in emissions from fossil fuels such as coal and oil.

The nonbinding but symbolically important pledge is a key element of the two-day summit, which begins Thursday as world leaders gather online to share strategies to combat climate change.

The emissions target has been eagerly awaited by all sides of the climate debate.



Biden It will signal how aggressively Biden wants to move on global warming, a divisive and expensive issue that has riled Republicans to complain about job-killing government overreach

even as some on the left worry Biden has not gone far enough to address a profound threat to the planet.

The three people who know about the White House plans spoke on condition of anonymity on Tuesday because they were not authorized to discuss the pledge ahead of Biden’s announcement.

Biden has sought to ensure that the 2030 goal, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution, or NDC, is aggressive enough to have a tangible impact on climate change efforts—not only in the U.S. but throughout the world—while also being achievable under a closely divided Congress.

The climate target is a key requirement of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which Biden rejoined on his first day in office.

Life & Style

Through the media covering Chauvin case, a collective pause

NEW YORK (AP)—With a collective nervous energy, millions of people paused in front of television sets or other screens Tuesday for a verdict in the case that for nearly a year has exposed the raw nerve of racial relations in America.

Three times they heard a Minnesota judge, Peter Cahill, read the jury's verdict declaring former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder and manslaughter for kneeling on the neck of a Black man, George Floyd, until he died last May.

Cahill's words led to a visible release of tension, both in the faces of news anchors on-screen and in crowds captured by cameras outside.

"Thank you, Jesus," responded anchor Don Lemon on CNN.

"My stomach isn't in knots anymore," said analyst Eddie Glaude on NBC.

"I do think this will restore some faith in the justice system that was so badly needed," said Gayle King, CBS News anchor.

Because Floyd's death had been so vividly captured in cell phone footage by bystanders, the case led to instant protests and reckonings on race last year, moments emotionally relieved during Chauvin's trial.

Shortly after Cahill polled the jury, Chauvin was taken into custody.

"The whole world just got to see that: Derek Chauvin led

away in handcuffs," said MSNBC's Brian Williams.

On ABC News, commentator Sunny Hostin wiped away tears and spoke about her nervousness about the verdict. She said her 18-year-old son lives in South Africa, and she feels that he is safer there.

"I really believe that this is a movement that we're seeing," she said. "For that I am so very thankful that perhaps we will see real change, much needed change in this country."

On Fox News Channel, former prosecutor Jeanine Pirro said that "clearly the verdict was supported by the facts." But new late-night host Greg Gutfeld drew some gasps and groans from colleagues for his reaction.



News of the verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin is displayed on a billboard in Times Square, New York, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

"I'm glad that he was found guilty on all charges," Gutfeld said, "even if he might not be guilty of all charges. I'm glad that he was found guilty of

sense of extortion, that if things didn't go a certain way—I'm speaking the truth—if it didn't go a certain way, that there was going to be destruction. We know that. Why pretend otherwise?"

Even ESPN cut into its regular programming for verdict coverage, a rare switch away from sports. The network's "SportsCenter" show tweeted: "George Floyd's death was a catalyst for the sports world's racial justice movement."

There was about 90 minutes between when word came down at about 3:30 p.m. Eastern time that a verdict had been reached before the result was known. That was danger zone for television networks: free time to engage in speculation.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince fans headed to Paisley Park five years after death

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)—Paisley Park, where Prince lived and worked, will welcome back a select 1,400 fans Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of his death from inside his creative sanctuary. The sprawling studio's atrium will be opened to those who rushed for one of the free reservations, while other fans can leave flowers and mementos in front of a statue erected outside the front doors in the shape of his famous purple Love Symbol. A custom-made ceramic urn shaped like Paisley Park with Prince's symbol on top was originally placed in the middle of the atrium when the pop legend's 65,000-square-foot studio in suburban Minneapolis

first opened as a museum in October 2016. At the request of Prince's family, the ashes were moved to a less prominent spot in the atrium and eventually removed entirely from public view, disappointing the superstar's legions of fans. This is the first time the urn has returned to the atrium for display to the public. Prince died April 21, 2016, of an accidental fentanyl overdose at age 57.

Globes group ousts member over his Black Lives Matter email

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former president of the organization that hosts the Golden Globes has been dropped from the group's board after sending an email that called Black Lives Matter a "hate movement." The email was sent to HFPA members, staff and the

group's general counsel and chief operating officer.

DiCaprio, Fonda urge US not to sign climate deal with Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Dozens of celebrities including actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Jane Fonda and Joaquin Phoenix on Tuesday called on U.S. President Joe Biden to refrain from signing any environmental agreement with his Brazilian counterpart, Jair Bolsonaro. The open letter signed by the artists comes just days Bolsonaro joins dozens of other foreign leaders at a U.S.-led summit to tackle the climate crisis, which will be held online. The U.S. and Brazil have been holding bilateral talks since February, and Bolsonaro's environment minister has been outspoken

about his desire for U.S. financial support for Amazon preservation. Artists said they sided with Indigenous peoples and civil society groups that have expressed concern about a possible deal with Brazil's conservative leader. The letter was supported by several non-profit groups, including AmazonWatch.

Scott Rudin says he will 'step back' from film projects also

NEW YORK (AP)—Scott Rudin says he's "stepping back" from film and streaming projects, along with his Broadway productions, as the fallout continued for one of the entertainment industry's most powerful and prolific producers following renewed accusations of bullying. In a statement Tuesday, Rudin

said he would use the time to "work on personal issues I should have long ago." Rudin, who has many projects in various stages of development, didn't otherwise specify what "stepping back" entailed. "When I commented over the weekend, I was focused on Broadway reopening successfully and not wanting my previous behavior to detract from everyone's efforts to return," said Rudin. "It's clear to me I should take the same path in film and streaming. I am profoundly sorry for the pain my behavior has caused and I take this step with a commitment to grow and change." On Saturday, Rudin said his work on Broadway would for now be filled by others, including those already at work on those productions.

Stress of pandemic changes beloved sister's personality

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I are best friends. She has always been caring, empathetic and passionate about helping others. Now, however, COVID has turned her into a real piece of work.

Since the pandemic began, she has become increasingly selfish. She interrupts other people's conversations to talk about herself and complains nonstop about how COVID has ruined her life, as if the rest of us weren't experiencing this too.

She shouts hysterically at me when the Wi-Fi stops working and refuses to volunteer for the most basic household tasks. At first I tried to be patient because I understand it's a reaction to an incredibly stressful time in her life. However, after 10 monster months of this, I'm at my wits' end.

We live together, go to college together and share the same friends. How can I tolerate her self-centeredness until the pandemic is finally over? And what if this new version of her never goes away?

IRKED IN IDAHO

DEAR IRKED: I wonder if the friends you share with your sister are having the same reaction as you are to being interrupted and having their conversations hijacked. If the answer is yes, a group intervention may jolt her back to reality and help her recognize how obnoxious it is.

As to the rest of your complaints about her behavior, the

next time she comes screaming to you about the Wi-Fi failing, tell her you'll be glad to help IF she agrees to pull her share of the workload around the apartment. It goes without saying that when you can make other living arrangements—perhaps in the fall—you find a roommate more compatible than your sister. If you do, your relationship with her may improve because you will be exposed to her less often.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two children. We have been married for 14 years, the last six of which have been sexless and loveless. We tried counseling, and I have threatened divorce, but nothing has changed.

After I finally realized that I couldn't change him, I changed myself. I started stepping out and having sexual relations with other men. He recently found out about my affairs but hasn't said a word about it to me. I'm to the point that I wish he would confront me and divorce me, but he acts like nothing is wrong in our marriage! I'm confused. What do you recommend I do next?

LOOKING AHEAD IN KANSAS

DEAR LOOKING AHEAD: It's time to decide what YOU want to happen. Do you want a divorce? Is the status quo acceptable to you? If it's the latter, do nothing different than you have been doing. However, if it isn't, talk to your

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



husband about what you are thinking.

You need to figure out why the change in your marriage happened and if it can be fixed. He may have become impotent or have someone he is seeing on the side. If it's possible to repair your marriage, counseling would be an option. However, if it's not, it might be healthier for both of you to talk to a lawyer and arrange an amicable divorce.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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Urias gets better of Mariners, Gonzales in 1-0 Dodgers win



SEATTLE

(AP)—Julio Urias threw seven dominant innings of one-hit ball, striking out a career-high 11 and leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 1-0 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday.

Corey Seager drove in the only run with a two-out single in the third inning after AJ Pollock's leadoff double. Those were the Dodgers' only hits in the game.

Seattle's lone hit against Urias (3-0) was Mitch Haniger's slow infield single with two outs in the third inning. Victor González worked the eighth, and Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save to complete the one-hitter.

Gonzales (1-2) allowed two hits and struck out six. He retired the final 13 batters he faced.

Athletics 7, Twins 0, 1st game

Athletics 1, Twins 0, 2nd game

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Olson hit a grand slam and Mitch Moreland homered twice to back Sean Manaea's shutout, and Jesús Luzardo followed with his own Game 2 gem as Oakland swept a doubleheader against depleted Minnesota.

The Athletics have won 10 straight.

Luzardo (1-1) allowed two hits over 5 1/3 innings, struck out six and walked one.

Lou Trivino retired former A's star Josh Donaldson on a called third strike to end the sixth with the tying run on third following a wild pitch. Jake Diekman finished for his first save with two runners on.

The A's got Seth Brown's RBI single in the fourth off right-hander José Berrios (2-2).

Although both games were only seven innings, the A's earned shutouts in both ends of a doubleheader for the first time since Vida Blue and Catfish Hunter did so facing the Royals on Sept. 9, 1974.

In the opener, Moreland connected for a two-run homer in the second inning and a solo drive in the fourth off Matt Shoemaker (1-1).

Manaea (2-1) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked one over seven innings, throwing 95 pitches for his second career complete game and shutout — the lefty no-hit the Red Sox at home on April 21, 2018.

Angels 6, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani pitched four roller-coaster scoreless innings, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols homered and Los Angeles defeated Texas.

Kurt Suzuki also went deep

for the Angels, who have won six of their nine home games.

Ohtani took the mound for the first time since April 4 after dealing with a blister issue on the middle finger of his throwing hand. The right-hander allowed only one hit but was the first starting pitcher since at least 1901 to toss four shutout innings with at least six walks and seven strikeouts.

Ohtani—who was on a pitch limit—threw 80 in all and was never able to retire Texas in order. But he was effective when needed.

Nick Solak homered for the Rangers. Jordan Lyles (0-2) permitted three runs in six innings.

Brewers 6, Padres 0

In San Diego, Corbin Burns struck out 10 in six spotless innings, extending his dominant start to the season, and Milwaukee blanked short-handed San Diego.

Billy McKinney homered to spark a five-run third against Chris Paddack (1-2) that included a two-run double by Travis Shaw and a two-run single from Omar Narváez. McKinney also made a diving catch in left field that likely saved two runs.

Jace Peterson went deep in the ninth against his original team.

Burns (2-1), a Southern California native, lowered his ERA to a minuscule 0.37.

He gave up four hits and no walks against a lineup missing banged-up stars Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr., who were rested.

Three relievers finished the six-hitter. The Padres have dropped six of eight.

Yankees 3, Braves 1

In New York, New York broke its five-game losing streak with little offense, getting a run-scoring wild pitch and bases-loaded walk from Atlanta reliever Nate Jones in the eighth inning.

Gio Urshela hit a tying home run in the fifth inning off Charlie Morton and the Yankees won with five hits, which left their four-game total at 16.

New York went 2 for 8 with runners in scoring position, but the last-place Yankees improved to 6-10 and avoided what would have been their worst start since 1972.

Tyler Matzek (0-2), who returned to the major leagues last year for the first time since 2015, walked pinch-hitter Aaron Hicks leading off the eighth and DJ LeMahieu and Aaron Judge followed with singles that loaded the bases.

Jones relieved and bounced a slider past catcher Travis d'Arnaud for a wild pitch that scored Hicks for a 2-1 lead.

Jonathan Loaisiga (2-0) worked around a hit batter in the eighth, and Aroldis Chap-



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Julio Urias throws against the Seattle Mariners in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Seattle. AP

man pitched around a walk in the ninth for his second save, his first since April 12.

White Sox 8, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Carlos Rodón followed up his no-hitter by hanging around for five shaky innings to beat Cleveland for the second time in a week, and José Abreu homered twice for Chicago.

Rodón (3-0) worked around five walks, giving up a homer and throwing 110 pitches — only four fewer than in his gem on April 14. The left-hander gave up two runs and three hits.

Abreu hit solo homers in the fourth and seventh innings. Tim Anderson connected for a two-run homer off Zach Plesac (1-3) and Yasmani Grandal's two-run shot in the seventh put the White Sox ahead 7-2.

Nationals 3, Cardinals 2

In Washington, Yan Gomes drew a four-pitch walk from Giovanny Gallegos to force in the go-ahead run in an odd eighth inning that also featured St. Louis deploying a five-man infield, and Washington rallied to win.

St. Louis led 2-1 entering the eighth. But Gallegos (2-1) walked a batter, then hit one, before Trea Turner's RBI single to right on an 0-2 count tied the game. Cardinals manager Mike Shildt followed with some creative defensive alignments, but it didn't matter much because Starlin Castro struck out looking with the bases loaded before Gomes' go-ahead walk.

Daniel Hudson (2-0) threw a perfect eighth for the win, and Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his second save in two chances with Washington.

Nationals starter Patrick Corbin pitched six scoreless innings.

Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 2

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run home run to back Eduardo Rodriguez in his first start at Fenway Park since 2019. Boston beat Toronto.

Rodriguez (3-0), who missed last season due to COVID-19 complications, allowed two runs on three hits over six innings and struck out six for AL East-leading Boston.

Matt Andriese, Adam Ottavino and Matt Barnes each worked a scoreless inning in relief. Barnes earned his third save.

Randal Grichuk and Bo Bichette homered for Toronto. Hyun Jin Ryu (1-2) lasted five innings, giving up eight hits, four runs and striking out two.

Giants 10, Phillies 7

In Philadelphia, Buster Posey had his first multi-homer game in nearly five years, Alex Dickerson and Wilmer Flores connected during a six-run eighth inning and San Francisco muscled past Philadelphia.

Tommy La Stella also homered for San Francisco, which got all of its runs via the long ball.

Dickerson's three-run shot off reliever Connor Brogdon (3-1) allowed the Giants to grab their first lead of the game at 7-6. Flores followed four hitters later with another three-run homer off Brogdon.

Posey hit two solo shots off Zack Wheeler. José Álvarez (1-1), part of Philadelphia's historically lousy 2020 bullpen, pitched a scoreless inning and got the win.

Orioles 7, Marlins 5

In Miami, Trey Mancini and Freddy Galvis each hit a solo homer in the third inning, and Baltimore beat Miami.

Matt Harvey (1-1) allowed three runs in five innings for his first win since July 13, 2019, with the Angels. César Valdez retired all four batters he faced for his fourth save, and Baltimore won despite being outhit 11-9.

Orioles right fielder Anthony Santander had to be helped to the clubhouse after he sprained his left ankle in the first inning.

Mancini hit his fourth homer and Galvis his second. Both came off rookie Nick Neidert (0-1), who gave up five runs in three innings.

Cubs 3, Mets 1

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta pitched five effective innings, Craig Kimbrel escaped a jam in the ninth and Chicago beat New York.

Arrieta allowed one run and three hits, struck out four and walked three. Wearing short sleeves on a cool, clear night — he game-time temperature was 36 degrees — Arrieta (3-1) also contributed to two runs at the plate.

Eric Sogard had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run for the Cubs.

J.D. Davis homered for New York, but also committed two throwing errors at third base — including one that brought home Chicago's first run.

Taijuan Walker (0-1) matched his career high with six walks in 3 2/3 innings, then was ejected by John Libka when he expressed frustration with the umpire's strike zone on his way out of the game. Walker was charged with two earned runs and two hits.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 4, 8 innings, suspended

In Cincinnati, Reds reliever

Lucas Sims walked in a run to give Arizona a 5-4 lead over Cincinnati in the top of the eighth inning before the game was suspended because of rain.

Play was called for the night just before the rain turned into snow at Great American Ball Park. It will resume before the teams play their regularly scheduled game on Wednesday night. Both will be regulation nine-inning games.

Andrew Young, who entered as a defensive replacement in the seventh, led off the eighth with a homer against Reds reliever Tejay Antone to tie it.

Kyle Farmer hit a two-run homer in the Cincinnati sixth off reliever Yoan López.

Pavin Smith had three hits for the Diamondbacks.

Rays 14, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Brandon Lowe, Austin Meadows and Mike Zunino homered and Tampa Bay pounded out 17 hits to rout Kansas City.

Meadows, Randy Arozarena and Joey Wendle had three hits each, and Manual Margot and Yoshi Tsutsugo had three RBIs apiece.

The Rays roughed up starter Brad Keller (1-2) for five runs in 1 2/3 innings.

Rich Hill allowed four runs in two innings for Tampa Bay. Andrew Kittredge (3-0) followed with a scoreless inning, and Trevor Richards pitched one-run ball over the last three innings for his first career save.

Rockies 6, Astros 2

In Denver, C.J. Cron homered and drove in five runs, Jon Gray pitched effectively into the seventh inning Colorado beat Houston.

Dom Nuñez also hit a home run for the Rockies, who snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Astros.

Carlos Correa and Aledmys Díaz had RBI doubles for the Astros, who have lost eight of nine.

Gray (2-1) allowed three hits and one run. He struck out six and benefited from a defense that turned three double plays.

Houston starter Luis Garcia (0-1) allowed a single and hit a batter in the bottom of the sixth with the Astros leading 1-0 and was relieved by Bryan Abreu, who gave up a two-run double to Cron.

Paul George has 33, Clippers down the Blazers, 113-112



PORTRLAND, Ore. (AP)—Paul George had 33 points, including two free throws with 4.8 seconds left that gave the Los Angeles Clippers a 113-112 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night.

George also had 11 rebounds for Los Angeles, playing without Kawhi Leonard. It was the sixth time in the last seven games that George had had 32 or more points.

“He’s been carrying us,” Clippers coach Ty Lue said. “He’s really stepped up by making his teammates better but also scoring the basketball. He’s just doing everything. It was a complete game tonight and we needed every bit of it.”

CJ McCollum had 28 points but missed a pullup jumper at the final buzzer for Portland, which didn’t have Damian Lillard for the game. Norman Powell added 23 points.

The Clippers were up 86-82 heading into the final quarter, but Carmelo Anthony’s 3-pointer and jumper gave the Blazers a 93-90 lead. Powell’s layup extended it to 101-96 midway through the period.

Reggie Jackson’s 3-pointer pulled the Clippers within 102-99 with 4:29 left, but McCollum answered with a 3 for Portland. Anthony padded the lead with a jumper.

After George made free throws, Ivica Zubac’s layup narrowed it to 109-107. McCollum again answered with a 3, but George’s basket got Los Angeles within a point with 33 seconds left.

McCollum missed a corner 3 and with 4.8 seconds to go



AP

Los Angeles Clippers guard Paul George, left, hits a shot over Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

George made a pair of free throws to give the Clippers the lead. McCollum missed a jumper on what he felt was a good look.

“I thought we competed,” McCollum said. “I thought we did enough to win tonight, it just didn’t go down.”

Lillard, ranked third in the league with 28.7 points per game, missed his third straight game with a hamstring injury. Portland was also missing center

Timberwolves 134, Kings 120

In Sacramento, Calif., Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and a season-high 18 rebounds, and the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled away over the final five minutes and thumped

the Sacramento Kings 134-120 on Tuesday night.

Anthony Edwards and D’Angelo Russell added 28 points apiece to help the Timberwolves beat the Kings for the second time this season and the first time in front of fans at Golden 1 Center. About 1,600 front-line workers sat alongside cardboard cutouts after California eased its COVID-19 restrictions earlier this month.

Minnesota trailed 115-114 when Edwards made his fifth 3-pointer to start a 17-3 run. Towns had seven points during the stretch.

“That was the game right there,” Towns said. “We knew we had a chance to put them away. It was the first time this season where we really had a

chance to lay the hammer and we did it.”

Hawks 112, Magic 96

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 25 points, Lou Williams added 22 in his best game since returning to Atlanta and the surging Hawks pulled away in the final period for a 112-96 victory over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

The Hawks began the day clinging to the fourth spot in the Eastern Conference, which would mean home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Atlanta won for the fifth time in six games to move a step closer to locking up its first postseason berth since 2017.

Young pointed out that the Hawks keep winning even

though five players are still out with injuries — an issue that has plagued the team all season.

Nets 134, Pelicans 129

In New Orleans, Kyrie Irving capped a 32-point performance with a tough turnaround jumper, a driving layup through converging defenders and four free throws in the final minute, and the Brooklyn Nets held on for a 134-129 victory over the reeling New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday night.

“Obviously, when Kyrie does his thing and hits tough shots like that, it truly saves us,” said Nets forward Blake Griffin, who had 16 points and eight rebounds in a reserve role. “But I thought overall we

Knicks 109, Hornets 97

In New York, RJ Barrett scored 18 of his 24 points in the third quarter and the New York Knicks beat the Charlotte Hornets 109-97 on Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Barrett’s offense and the Knicks’ defense changed the game after the Hornets scored 66 points in the first half. New York held Charlotte to just 31 after halftime.

Derrick Rose and Immanuel Quickley each scored 17 points off the bench for the Knicks, who moved into fifth place in the Eastern Conference. They bring their longest winning streak since winning eight straight in March 2014 into Wednesday’s game against fourth-place Atlanta.

cantly increased support for the wider football pyramid.

“We believe that we should never stand still and that the sport should constantly review competitions and governance to ensure the game we all love continues to evolve and excite fans around the world.”

Chelsea, which is owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, said it only joined the Super League group last week.

“We have now had time to consider the matter fully and have decided that our continued participation in these plans would not be in the best interests of the club, our supporters or the wider football community,” Chelsea said in a statement hours after its game against Brighton had been delayed by fan protests outside its Stamford Bridge stadium.

The Premier League threatened to sanction the six rebel clubs and Prime Minister Boris Johnson considered introducing laws to stop them forming a new European competition he called a “cartel.”

LONDON (AP)—The Super League collapsed before a ball was kicked in the European breakaway competition after being abandoned by the six English clubs, leaving the Spanish and Italian participants stranded.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City and Tottenham throughout Tuesday evening deserted the proposal to launch a largely-closed midweek competition amid an escalating backlash from their supporters and warnings from the British government that legislation could be introduced to thwart it.

The Super League project was overseen by Real Madrid President Florentino Perez, who also signed up Barcelona and Atlético Madrid in Spain, and Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan from Italy. The rival for the UEFA-run Champions League became unviable without the six clubs from the world’s richest league.

The remaining fledgling Super League organization

was defiant, blaming “pressure” being applied for forcing out the English clubs and insisting the proposal complied with the law and could yet be revived in some form.

“Given the current circumstances,” the Super League said in a statement, “we shall reconsider the most appropriate steps to reshape the project, always having in mind our goals of offering fans the best experience possible while enhancing solidarity payments for the entire football community.”

The English clubs heeded the appeals from UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin to remain part of the Champions League, which has a qualification criteria based on a team’s performance in the domestic league.

“I said yesterday that it is admirable to admit a mistake and these clubs made a big mistake,” he said. “But they are back in the fold now and I know they have a lot to offer not just to our competitions but to the whole of the Euro-

pean game. “The important thing now is that we move on, rebuild the unity that the game enjoyed before this and move forward together.”

As it became clear Chelsea and City were quitting the Super League on Tuesday evening, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and his teammates posted a message advocating staying within the open European competitions.

Liverpool, which is owned by the Boston Red Sox investment group, eventually issued a statement thanking those inside and outside the club for “valuable contributions” before making the decision to stick within existing structures.

Manchester United defender Luke Shaw also went against his club by tweeting his backing of the existing Champions League minutes before his club’s about-turn.

“We have listened carefully to the reaction from our fans, the UK government and other

key stakeholders,” said the club owned by the American Glazer family and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. “We remain committed to working with others across the football community to come up with sustainable solutions to the long-term challenges facing the game.”

Just as the Glazers also own the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Stan Kroenke has the NFL’s Los Angeles Rams in his portfolio along with Arsenal. It is the closed models of American sports that were believed to be so appealing to the U.S. owners by offering financial certainty.

But they were resisted by fans of English clubs.

“It was never our intention to cause such distress, however, when the invitation to join the Super League came, while knowing there were no guarantees, we did not want to be left behind to ensure we protected Arsenal and its future,” the north London club

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Manolo "Lo" Manalo and Lalaine "Irish" Pagaraao proved that basketball players can successfully transition into cycling by winning their respective beginners division races in last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

Manalo, who used to suit up in various recreational basketball leagues on Saipan, gave his surname justice (Manalo means to win in Filipino) when he finished first in the one-lap, 20-kilometer road bike course from Banzai Cliff to Seafix Inc. and back. He clocked in with a time of 36:41 to best fellow newcomers Jaypee Pangelinan (37:49) and Ace Doca (38:01).

The 37-year-old who works in construction said he only began cycling five months ago and was surprised to beat out stronger cyclists. Manalo dedicated the victory to his family on Saipan and

Manalo, Pagaraao top beginners course



MARK RABAGO
Manolo "Lo" Manalo raises his road bike after winning the beginners division of last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

in his native Philippines.

Pagaraao, meanwhile, is a



MARK RABAGO
Lalaine "Irish" Pagaraao smiles while posing with her mountain bike after winning the beginners division of last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

she finished first in the beginners division of the women's mountain bike course. The 29-year-old soccer coach, who only started biking last year, beat Rose Sedillo, who finished second in the cat-



egory (no times were available).

"It was fun biking especially with a group of friends. I wasn't looking for the win. It was more on 'let's support and have fun.' I am happy that our group came

out and joined because for most of us, it was our first time to join a bike race. It's also good experience for all of us seeing new faces and making friends. People should go out there and try biking! Let's be more active!" she said.

Lynne Montiveros won the beginners road race for women, while the following are the road race age category winners—Renren Gaviola (1:42:63 in the 20 Up), Robin Tatlonghari (30 Up), Fred Remilosa (40 Up), Robert Tamondong (1:41:49 in the 50 Up), Willy Barbo (60 Up), Robyn Spaeth (women's 30 Up), and Angie Mister (women's 40 Up).

Organizers also gave special participation awards to the 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan's youngest participants—13-year-old Andre Kathleen Chavez, 14-year-old Isiah Alekseenko, and 15-year-old Mark Jainier Chavez—and oldest participant—70-year-old Danilo Paquerez. E-bikers Jerry Tan, Catherine Attao, Melanie Santos, and Maria Loida Ito were also acknowledged for their participation.

Organizer Emon Masonic Lodge 179 awarded the Top 3 winners of each division with medals and other prizes during the awards ceremony held Sunday night at Rendezvous Restaurant.

The 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan was originally set for March 20, but was moved back nearly a month after Saipan recorded a small cluster of COVID-19 cases early last month. *Padyakan* is a Filipino word which loosely means to pedal.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
SCC Golf Tournament chair Shayne Villanueva, left, and SCC Events Committee chair Marcia Calvo, far right, with Latte Built owner, Derek Cutting, center, with his staff and the staff of SCC.

generation of entrepreneurs will be honored through the SCC Scholarship Program. In light of our difficult economic times, SCC appreciates the support of our dedicated local businesses, such Latte Built, who rise up and pay it forward to our community.

The SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 22, 2021. Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipan-chamber.com/events. Players can save time and money with discounted rates before May 7. Contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com for more info. (SCC)

SCS

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19 goals in three matches—the most by any team in the group. Koblerville 2 also gave up the least goals with 6.

SCS took the other semis ticket in Group A, barely making it to the playoff round after posting a 1-1-1 win-draw-loss record and getting 4 points. The Tsunamis were ahead by only one point against SIS 2, which finished the round-robin play with a 1-0-2 mark. WSR failed to make it to the win column this season.

With its No. 2 seeding in Group A, SCS was paired against Group B top ranked Koblerville 1 in the semifinals. SCS went on to pull off an upset over the Umangs, thanks to the pair of PKs from Park and Jin.

Koblerville 1, before losing to SCS, was unbeaten in Group B, as it prevailed over SIS 1, Brilliant Star School, and Isla Montessori School. Koblerville 1 also matched Koblerville 2's total goals in pool play and yielded seven to its opponents. SIS 1 bagged the second semis berth in the group with its 2-0-1 slate, while Brilliant Star registered only one victory in the short season and Isla Montessori was winless.

Latte Built Fitness & Nutrition sponsors SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament

Saipan Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce Latte Built 24 Hr. Fitness & Nutrition, 2021 "Over Easy" Sponsor of the SCC Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament will be challenging golfers at Hole #12 for the Aggressive Drive competition!



ber events, Cutting is no stranger to helping others achieve their goals.

When asked about why he decided to sponsor the tournament, Cutting shared, "First I've been an SYP member for many years and they have always supported me and my ventures. The second reason is to help out a motivated student in need since the tournament proceeds go to a college scholarship. If we all pitch in a little, no one has to suffer a lot."

SCC is proud to have Latte Built on as a SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament Sponsor, where Cutting's dedication to uplifting the next

OES track and field coach Puspa Arriola was proud of her athletes' performance in the qualifier, considering they have little to no training. "We decided to join last minute. [Despite that] our students did pretty well. We didn't have much time to practice," she said.

Arriola said she and assistant coach Mildred Kintol just conducted a quick preliminary training at their campus and chose their representatives to the All Schools then and there. She also had nice words to say about Esakova. "Alina did pretty well. She's actually a

very active and outgoing kid."

Kintol, for her part, said all the track and field participants coming from Oleai are all raw talent, which only made it more surprising that the Lady Turtles were able to win four of six events. "They've no training and they were just getting their

feet wet at the All Schools."

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship, which is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics, continued yesterday with qualifiers in the middle school and high school divisions.

al volleyball players, Rabago said it's too early to pass judgment but he liked what he saw.

"I'm glad that they're young. I'm glad they have a court to come to. I haven't had a chance to really watch a 6-on-6 game so I don't know the total expectations and what they're caliber is really at. I'm talking about something totally brand new and it's gonna either break them or make them better. I do see some players pick it up really quickly and I saw those still stuck in the traditional old-school way... That's why I was telling them that do your homework, watch current games, and don't sit back and say 'I'm the best and I'm satisfied,'" he said.

Tanapag Middle School volleyball coach Catherine Torcules-Woodruff said she benefitted a lot from the two-hour session with Rabago and plans to pass on the new volleyball knowledge she acquired to her players.

"Coach Rabago did a great job with ideas and tactics on how to do different drills. Workshops are very important to us coaches because we can get some ideas and bring them back to our school, implement them

LADY

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she completed the course in 08:12, while Magofna won the 12U 400m with a time of 18:92, followed by OES' Sablan (19:20) and Charqualaf (19:63).

CHESTS

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to periodically fly up to Saipan to compete in many volleyball tournaments.

The honor graduate of the U.S. Olympic Committee's International Coaching Enrichment Certification Program said his ultimate dream for volleyball in the Marianas is that the CNMI and Guam would follow the lead of the former French colonies in the Pacific.

"[The French-speaking island-nations] of Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna they always play each other in inter-island meets so they know each other. So the Pacific Games to them is like a celebration or a close out of what they've worked hard

for," he said.

Quan said the coaching clinic last April 16 was just a way for Rabago to familiarize himself with the Commonwealth's men's national players as well as their coaches and see where their playing level and coaching capacity is and build a plan from there.

"The ultimate goal for our partnership with Mike Rabago is to produce national team coaches for beach volleyball for the Pacific Mini Games and beach volleyball and indoor volleyball for the Micronesian Games, but if it also helps our other coaches at various volleyball development stages receive more knowledge and resources, even better!" she said.

Asked what's his impression on aspiring CNMI nation-

al volleyball players, Rabago said it's too early to pass judgment but he liked what he saw.

"I'm glad that they're young. I'm glad they have a court to come to. I haven't had a chance to really watch a 6-on-6 game so I don't know the total expectations and what they're caliber is really at. I'm talking about something totally brand new and it's gonna either break them or make them better. I do see some players pick it up really quickly and I saw those still stuck in the traditional old-school way... That's why I was telling them that do your homework, watch current games, and don't sit back and say 'I'm the best and I'm satisfied,'" he said.

NMIVA board member and former national team player Tyce Mister came away im-



Urias gets better of Mariners, Gonzales in 1-0 Dodgers win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Manalo, Pagaraao top beginners course

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GUAM NAT'L COACH TO CNMI NAT'L PLAYERS

'My goal right now is put a medal on your chests'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Guam volleyball national coach Mike Rabago said this to former and potential CNMI national volleyball players and their coaches at the end of a what promises to be a series of coaching clinics at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road last Friday.

The FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator was on island to assist the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association in getting its national team and grass roots program up and running again. NMIVA president Somia Quan said the coaching clinic conducted by Rabago is part of an FIVB National Team Coaching Development grant.

"My goal right now is put a medal on your chests. I don't care what kind of color it is... I want everyone to buy in—the federation, the coaches, and



the players... This is the future and you guys will be the one to build the youth program and it starts by being in shape. That's where the buy-in comes in like coming out on a Friday night [like this]," Rabago told the over 25 participants of the volleyball clinic last Friday.

He also impressed on the players and coaches that while the CNMI and Guam can continue to be rivals on the volleyball court, there's no reason why they can't cooperate to grow the sport outside it.

"We want to have an exchange between Guam and



MARK RABAGO

FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago talks to former and potential CNMI national volleyball players and current coaches during a two-hour clinic at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road last Friday.

SCS vs Koblerville 2 in ISL finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Community School and Koblerville Elementary School 2 arranged their title showdown in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League after elimination their respective playoff foes last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Umangs marched into the championship game first after shutting down Saipan International School 1, 4-0, while the Tsunamis followed suit after outclassing Koblerville 1 in a penalty shootout, 2-0.

Koblerville 2 and SCS will dispute the elementary school division title today at 5:15pm after the 4:15pm third place game between SIS 1 and Koblerville 2.

Ji Hun Park and Soo Ho Jin connected on their PK shot to lift SCS to the semis win and foil an all-Koblerville title duel.

Earlier in the first semis match, Jose Maratita towed Koblerville 2 past SIS 1 after delivering a hat trick in



the playoff opener. Maratita made the three goals in consecutive fashion, as he registered his first in the 11th minute and the last two in the 17th and 32nd. Jairoh Guilas opened the scoring for Koblerville 2 with his goal in the ninth minute.

Koblerville 2 reached the semifinals after sweeping its three games in the round-robin contest in Group A. Maratita and company defeated SCS, SIS 2, and William S. Reyes and collected

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Lady Turtle power in All Schools

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Lady Turtles of Oleai Elementary School won four of six events as the qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship continued Tuesday at the Oleai Track and Field.

Proudly donning their olive-colored shirts, the OES girls showed they were no green-



horns on the track and the field as they won the girls 9U 100m, 12U 100m and 400m, and the softball throw.

In the 100m, Alina Esakova won the sprint race in 17.95, followed by teammate Elena Teigita (19.31) and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Memzie Elieisar (19.59).

Esakova also was first in the 400m as she crossed

the round-tripper on the track in 01:33:80. Saipan Community School's Allie Brasuell and Elieisar came in second and third with times of 01:36:63 and 01:42:42, respectively.

In the 12U 400m, Reannie Sablan outdueled fellow Lady Turtle, Sandra Chargualaf, 01:54:90-02:07:74.

OES' Teigita ran away with the 9U softball throw by chucking the softball 18.15m. She was followed by teammates Esakova (16.85m) and Jayla Ayuyu (12.35m).

Brasuell and WSR's Aires Jo Magofna were the only non-Lady Turtles to win Tuesday. Brasuell was the lone runner in the 9U 1,500m and

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MARK RABAGO

Oleai Elementary School's Alina Esakova, left, and Reannie Sablan take part in the 400m race of the qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship Tuesday at the Oleai Track and Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Saipan Community School player, center, tries to control the ball, while a Koblerville Elementary School 2 defender stays close to him during their semis game in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.